

Message Text

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64

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 MMS-03 SS-20 PER-05 ABF-01 A-01

DRC-01 RSC-01 /053 W

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R 151615Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5195

INFO DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 8902

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCGEN, CG

SUBJECT: PLANNED REDUCTION IN DAO

1. DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN DEPT., I WAS SHOWN DIA MEMO ASKING STATE REACTION TO POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF KINSHASA DAO BY 1 ARMY OFFICER AND 1 SERGEANT. ASKED FOR MY OPINION, I STATED THAT I HAD NO OBJECTION IF REDUCTION DID NOT HAVE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTINUOUS FUNCTION IN DAO AIRCRAFT. AFTER LOSS OF THE ZAMISH AIRCRAFT, AVAILABILITY OF DAO AIRCRAFT IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THIS MISSION. IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAT ZAIRIAN MILITARY BASES ARE AGAIN OPEN TO VISITS BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL.

2. ON RETURN TO POST, I DISCOVERED THAT PLANNED REDUCTION WOULD REDUCE TO TWO THE NUMBER OF PILOTS QUALIFIED TO FLY DAO AIRCRAFT (ONE AARMA PLUS THE AIR ATTACHE WHO COINCIDENTALLY QUALIFIED IN THIS AIRCRAFT), THUS PUTTING EMBASSY USE OF AIRCRAFT AT THE MERCY OF SUDDEN ILLNESSES AND LEAVES ON THE PART OF REMAINING PILOTS.

3. EMBASSY CONSIDERS MINIMUM OF 3 PILOTS NEEDED TO ENSURE CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF DAO AIRCRAFT. IF NEW DATT IS QUALIFIED PILOT FOR DAO AIRCRAFT, POST CAN ENDURE REDUCTION OF DAO BY 1 ARMY OFFICER. IF REDUCTION WOULD RESULT IN FEWER THAN 3 QUALIFIED PILOTS AVAILABLE FOR DAO AIRCRAFT.

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EMBASSY VIGOROUSLY OPPOSES REDUCTION.

4. GIVEN RECENT LOSS OF ONE DAO SERGEANT, I REGRETFULLY
CONCLUDE THAT AN ADDITIONAL CUT SHOULD NOT BE MADE AT THIS
TIME.

5. FOR FOREGOING REASONS, I STRONGLY OPPOSE PROPOSED
DIA REDUCTION OF DAO STAFF.
VANCE

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